



N° 302 E – News from June 2021

Emergency response

Cedre's on-call team received numerous and varied enquiries and call-outs in June. Following the fire onboard the *X-Press Pearl* and its subsequent sinking near the Sri Lankan coastline, two Cedre experts were deployed in the framework of the Civil Protection Mechanism of the European Union to intervene in a coordinated mission by the United Nations (UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit). They left on 15th June to conduct an initial assessment of the capacities and needs to respond to the immediate risks and impacts, to help set up environmental impact monitoring and to provide technical advice to the authorities on pollution response, clean-up, restoration and environmental monitoring actions. Marine pollution was reported in Corsica on 11th June. Two experts from Cedre were mobilised on site on 15th June following a request issued by the authorities in Ajaccio. They provided technical assistance for reconnaissance surveys and recommended appropriate clean-up techniques. The on-call team was called upon through the ICE network for an exercise as well as for a real spill. For this spill, the alert was raised by the Italian national centre following a leak of a sodium hydroxide solution from a truck at a multimodal platform. Finally, a few smaller spills occurred. The Vaucluse fire department sought advice following a spill of home heating oil at a private home. The Mayor of Morgat informed us of a small spill. The QHSE officer at an industrial site in Ile-et-Vilaine asked for advice following a spill triggered by the opening of a transformer. Several MRCCs called Cedre on various occasions to request expert appraisals in relation to suspected pollution events.

In short

Cedre Information Day on containers held on 27th March:

The 11 presentations are now online on our [YouTube channel!](#)

Training

- 13th to 17th september: oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline
- 20th to 23rd september: marine pollution crisis management

Hot off the press

- [Cedre's Annual Report 2020](#).
- New publication: [Pollustats 2020](#). Worldwide spill statistics of 2020.

Cedre Strategy Committee meeting

Cedre's 53rd Strategy Committee meeting was held on 28th June at CNPP. This was the opportunity to bring together our partners in person for the first time since November 2019. The morning's agenda comprised a review the progress of the projects conducted under Cedre's 2020 and 2021 programmes, a presentation of the investment master plan for the next 5 years and initial discussions on the projects due to begin next year. The afternoon was devoted to a presentation of CNPP and its missions, as well as a tour of its technical facilities, including various fire and safety demonstrations (extinguishing an oil fire, sodium fire, automatic gas extinguishing, fire and environment laboratory), two of CNPP's fields of expertise. This meeting was also an opportunity to set the dates, locations and topics for Cedre's upcoming events. The next Technical Day will be held at Cedre on 25th November 2021 on the theme of Overseas Territories, the next Information Day will take place at MTE in Paris on 29th March on the theme of environmental impact, and the 55th Cedre Strategy Committee meeting will take place on 1st June 2022 at the IMT Alès.

MOIG Regional Workshop

From 15th to 17th June, a MOIG regional workshop was held in Hammamet, Tunisia. This workshop, attended by some thirty participants, was divided into two parts. The first day, led by Tunisia's National Environmental Protection Agency, was devoted to contingency plan assessment using the RETOS™ tool, drawing on the know-how acquired during the DG-ECHO-funded project West MOPoCo. The following two days were led remotely by Rempec and Cedre on the theme of waste management. The course materials, posters and manual developed during the POSOW project, also funded by DG-ECHO, were distributed to participants. Feedback from past experience was presented, as was the Rempec Waste Management Decision Support Tool.

First partners meeting with advisory committee members

The MANIFESTS project (MANaging risks and Impacts From Evaporating and gaseous Substances To population Safety) benefits from the contribution of an advisory committee comprising 6 national maritime authorities, including the French Navy, CEPPOL (French Navy Centre of Practical Expertise in Pollution Response) and French Customs. As the main end-users of the tools developed through MANIFESTS, the members of the advisory committee attended the project progress meeting on the 21st. This was the opportunity for the project partners to gather their initial reactions and technical suggestions on the work completed and scheduled. Following a recap of the project's objectives and a presentation of the actions under each Work Package, the advisory committee members were invited to express their expectations, particularly in relation to the decision support tool developed through MANIFESTS. The expectations and

suggestions of the authorities in charge of responding to spills of volatile HNS included: tools offering an intuitive and readily accessible interface to provide an appropriate and efficient response to the situation and the inclusion of the form of cargo (bulk, packaged, etc.) in the new fire and explosion modelling modules in order to assess its impact on the response strategy.

GI WACAF webinar

On 21st June, Cedre, together with [CEPPOL](#) and [TotalEnergies](#), gave a series of presentations for the French-speaking session of webinar #3 organised by [GI WACAF](#) and entitled "the use of dispersants in case of an oil spill in the marine environment". 38 participants attended this virtual event.

MICMAC project comes to a close

June 2021 marked the end of the [MICMAC research project](#). Funded as part of the 'Scattered Islands' 2017-2020 inter-organisational research programme led by the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF), this project aimed to inventory plastic pollution near and on the shores of the Scattered Islands in order to characterise the pressure exerted by this pollution. This project, led by [CNRS](#) and carried out in partnership with Cedre, was based on a month-long research cruise aboard the Marion Dufresne. During this cruise, which took place in April 2019, an assessment of macro-litter (> 2.5 cm), meso-litter (2.5 cm - 5 mm), micro-plastics (5 mm - 1 µm) and nano-plastics (< 1 µm) was carried out near and on the shores of four of the five Scattered Islands: Europa, Juan de Nova, Grande Glorieuse and Tromelin. Cedre was then in charge of assessing shoreline pollution by litter items exceeding 1 mm (macro-litter, meso-litter and large microplastics).

CleanAtlantic project wrap-up conference

On 15th June, we took part in the final conference of the [CleanAtlantic project](#), held online and open to the general public. This conference was an opportunity to present the project results obtained by all the partners on tackling marine litter in the Atlantic area, particularly in terms of the use of data and knowledge, as well as monitoring, modelling and mapping of marine litter. Cedre presented its work on inventorying and mapping initiatives aimed at tackling marine litter, on the fate and impacts of cigarette butts and cotton buds in the environment, as well as on the identification of litter hotspots and shoreline clean-up techniques. This conference was the final milestone in this four-year project.

Drift simulation in the Mediterranean

As part of a comparative study of marine oil slick drift models, with the help of [CEPPOL](#), we deployed drifting buoys at sea to simulate an oil spill. The buoys were released in the Mediterranean on 15th June and were monitored by the drift committee, dubbed "CODER", (Cedre, [Météo-France](#), [Ifremer](#), [SHOM](#)) until 23rd June. CODER was thus able to use and compare the different modelling tools available in the area. A similar exercise was conducted in French Guiana from 17th to 21st May.

Testing the Wilden P2 pneumatic pump

As part of Cedre's evaluation programme for spill response equipment and techniques for use at sea and on the shoreline, our technical team have begun a series of performance tests with the Wilden P2 pump. The performance of this pneumatic pump will be measured with various types of oil (increasing viscosity), suction heights and delivery pressures.

National marine litter workshop

On 25th June, Cedre took part in the national marine litter workshop, held online, organised by the [French Directorate of Water and Biodiversity](#) under the [French Ministry for the Ecological Transition](#). This event was an opportunity for the Ministry to inform attendees about the national and international actions carried out in the framework of marine litter policies. This workshop was also an opportunity for Cedre to present the results of the survey conducted as part of the [CleanAtlantic project](#) on litter hotspots along the coastline of mainland France. Other national stakeholders also presented their work and actions in progress: the "Fish & Click" application ([Ifremer](#)); the "Zéro Déchet Sauvage" platform ([MerTerre](#)); the "Plastic Origins" project ([Surfrider Foundation Europe](#)); the charter for zero litter in rivers entitled "Mon territoire s'engage : rivières et fleuves sans plastique, océan protégé" ([Tara Océan Foundation](#)); and finally a brief introduction to the "No Plastic in my Sea" initiative ([AMORCE](#)).

Training session for local stakeholders from the Coastal House in Ploumanac'h

On 16th June, Cedre took part in a training course entitled "Ocean, plastic and learning" for instructors at the [Perros-Guirec watersports centre](#), youth workers employed by the local authority and wardens from the [Coastal House in Ploumanac'h](#), as well as the municipality's environment officer. This training session was run in partnership with the [University of Southern Brittany](#). Organised by [Nautisme en Bretagne](#) with support from the [Region of Brittany](#), the session was held on site in Perros-Guirec and was attended by some twenty participants. During this training event, we addressed the questions of monitoring networks and impacts of plastic litter on the marine environment, and held discussions with the participants on citizen science, with the participation of [Surfrider Foundation Europe](#) (attending virtually).